

sequencing of PCR products from patient genomic DNA. This mutation was found to segregate with the disease in an extended pedigree and was not present in an additional 12 Caucasian individuals by sequence analysis.

Please insert the attached sequence listing at the end of the specification.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

11. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that modulates an FKHL7 bioactivity, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the compound with a cell or cellular extract, which expresses an FKHL7 gene having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) determining the resulting FKHL7 bioactivity,

wherein an increase or decrease in the FKHL7 bioactivity in the presence of the compound as compared to the bioactivity in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound is a modulator of an FKHL7 bioactivity.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a nucleic acid, a peptidomimetic, and a small molecule.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the small molecule is a steroid.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid is a member selected from the group consisting of a gene replacement, an antisense, a ribozyme, and a triplex nucleic acid.
18. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that modulates an FKHL7 bioactivity comprising the steps of:
 - (a) combining an FKHL7 protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, and FKHL7 binding partner, and a test compound under conditions wherein, but for the test compound, the FKHL7 protein and FKHL7 binding partner are able to interact; and
 - (b) detecting the formation of an FKHL7 protein/FKHL7 binding partner complex, such that a difference in the formation of an FKHL7 protein/FKHL7 binding partner complex in the presence of a test compound relative to in the absence of the test compound indicates that the test compound is a modulator of an FKHL7.
19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the compound is selected from the group comprising a polypeptide, a nucleic acid, a peptidomimetic, and a small molecule.
20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the small molecule is a steroid.
21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid is a member selected from the group consisting of a gene replacement, an antisense, a ribozyme, and a triplex nucleic acid.